

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing Of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) In a digital packet based multimedia system having a multimedia source device coupled to a multimedia display device by way of a bi-directional auxiliary channel line arranged to transfer information between the display device and a source device and vice versa and a unidirectional main link line arranged to carry multimedia data packets in the form of an multi-media data packet stream from the multimedia source device to the multimedia display device wherein each of the multimedia data packets includes at least a multimedia data packet header, wherein the main link line is physically separate from the auxiliary channel line, a method of reducing multimedia packet overhead, comprising:

prior to commencement of transmission of the data packets from the source device to the display device over the main link line, communicating via the auxiliary channel line multi-media data packet stream attributes to the display device, wherein the data packet stream attributes include information used by the display device to at least identify the data packets of a particular stream, to recover original data from the data packet stream and to format the data packet stream back to a data packet stream native data rate;

replacing the data packet header with a corresponding reduced size data packet header for each of the multimedia data packets at the source device commensurate with the data packet stream attributes already communicated via the auxiliary channel line;

streaming the multi-media data packets having the reduced size data packet header from the source device to the display; and

sending information associated with the streaming between the source device and the display device by way of the auxiliary channel line concurrent with the streaming, wherein there is no clock line.

2. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the data packet is one of a number of associated multimedia data packets that taken together form a multimedia data packet stream.

3. (Original) A method as recited in claim 2, wherein the multimedia data packet stream is one of a number of multimedia data packet streams each having an associated adjustable data stream link rate that is independent of a native stream rate.

4. (Canceled).

5. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:

forming a number of virtual links each being associated with a particular one of the multimedia data packet streams wherein each of said virtual links has an associated virtual link bandwidth and a virtual link rate.

6. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 5, wherein a main link line bandwidth is at least equal to an aggregate of the virtual link bandwidths.

7. (Previously Presented) In a digital packet based multimedia system having a multimedia source device coupled to a multimedia display device by way of a bi-directional auxiliary channel line arranged to transfer information between the display device and a source device and vice versa and a unidirectional main link line arranged to carry multimedia data packets in the form of an multi-media data packet stream from the multimedia source device to the multimedia display device wherein each of the multimedia data packets includes at least a multimedia data packet header, wherein the main link line is physically separate from the auxiliary channel line, an apparatus for reducing multimedia packet overhead, comprising:

means for communicating via the auxiliary channel line multi-media data packet stream attributes to the display device prior to commencement of transmission of the data packets from the source device to the display device over the main link line, wherein the data packet stream attributes include information used by the display device to at least identify the data packets of a particular stream, to recover original data from the data packet stream or to format the data packet stream back to a data packet stream native data rate;

means for replacing the data packet header with a corresponding reduced size data packet header for each of the multimedia data packets at the source device commensurate with the data packet stream attributes already communicated via the auxiliary channel line;

means for streaming the multi-media data packets having the reduced size data packet header from the source device to the display concurrently; and

means for sending information associated with the streaming between the source device and the display by way of the auxiliary channel line concurrent with the streaming, wherein there is no clock line.

8. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as recited in claim 7, wherein the data packet is one of a number of associated multimedia data packets that taken together form the multimedia data packet stream.

9. (Original) An apparatus as recited in claim 8, wherein the multimedia data packet stream is one of a number of multimedia data packet streams each having an associated adjustable data stream link rate that is independent of a native stream rate.

10. (Canceled).

11. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as recited in claim 8, further comprising:
means for forming a number of virtual links each being associated with a particular one of the multi media data packet streams wherein each of said virtual links has an associated virtual link bandwidth and a virtual link rate.

12. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as recited in claim 11, wherein a main link line bandwidth is at least equal to an aggregate of the virtual link bandwidths.

13. (Previously Presented) Computer readable medium encoded with a computer program and executable by a processor for reducing multimedia packet overhead in a digital packet based multimedia system having a multimedia source device coupled to a multimedia display device by way of a bi-directional auxiliary channel line arranged to transfer information between the display device and a source device and vice versa and a unidirectional main link line arranged to carry multimedia data packets in the form of an multi-media data packet stream from the multimedia source device to the multimedia display device wherein each of the multimedia data packets includes at least a multimedia data packet header, wherein the main link line is physically separate from the auxiliary channel line, comprising:

computer code for communicating via the auxiliary channel line multi-media data packet stream attributes to the display device prior to commencement of transmission of the data packets from the source device to the display device over the main link line, wherein the data packet stream attributes include information used by the display device to at least identify the data packets of a particular stream, to recover original data from the data packet stream or to format the data packet stream back to a data packet stream native data rate;

computer code for replacing the data packet header with a corresponding reduced size data packet header for each of the multimedia data packets at the source device commensurate with the data packet stream attributes already communicated via the auxiliary channel line; and

computer code for streaming the multi-media data packets having the reduced size data packet header from the source device to the display;

computer code for sending information associated with the streaming between the source device and the display by way of the auxiliary channel line concurrent with the streaming; and

computer readable medium for storing the computer code.

14. (Previously Presented) Computer program product as recited in claim 13, wherein the data packet is one of a number of associated multimedia data packets that taken together form the multimedia data packet stream.

15. (Original) Computer program product as recited in claim 14, wherein the multimedia data packet stream is one of a number of multimedia data packet streams each having an associated adjustable data stream link rate that is independent of a native stream rate.

16. (Canceled).

17. (Previously Presented) Computer program product as recited in claim 13, further comprising:

forming a number of virtual links each being associated with a particular one of the multimedia data packet streams wherein each of said virtual links has an associated virtual link bandwidth and a virtual link rate.

18. (Previously Presented) Computer program product as recited in claim 17, wherein a main link line bandwidth is at least equal to an aggregate of the virtual link bandwidths.

19. (Previously Presented) A computer chip configured to perform a method in a digital packet based multimedia system having a multimedia source device coupled to a multimedia display device by way of a bi-directional auxiliary channel line arranged to transfer information between the display device and a source device and vice versa and a unidirectional main link line arranged to carry multimedia data packets in the form of an multi-media data packet stream from the multimedia source device to the multimedia display device wherein each

of the multimedia data packets includes at least a multimedia data packet header, wherein the main link line is physically separate from the auxiliary channel line, a method of reducing multimedia packet overhead, the method comprising:

prior to commencement of transmission of the data packets from the source device to the display device over the main link line, communicating via the auxiliary channel line multi-media data packet stream attributes to the display device, wherein the data packet stream attributes include information used by the display device to at least identify the data packets of a particular stream, to recover original data from the data packet stream and to format the data packet stream back to a data packet stream native data rate;

replacing the data packet header with a corresponding reduced size data packet header for each of the multimedia data packets at the source device commensurate with the data packet stream attributes already communicated via the auxiliary channel line;

streaming the multi-media data packets having the reduced size data packet header from the source device to the display; and

sending information associated with the streaming between the source device and the display device by way of the auxiliary channel line concurrent with the streaming, wherein there is no clock line.

20. (Previously Presented) In a digital packet based multimedia system having a multimedia source device coupled to a multimedia display device by way of a bi-directional auxiliary channel line arranged to transfer information between the display device and a source device and vice versa and a unidirectional main link line arranged to carry multimedia data packets in the form of an multi-media data packet stream from the multimedia source device to the multimedia display device wherein each of the multimedia data packets includes at least a multimedia data packet header, wherein the main link line is physically separate from the auxiliary channel line, a method of reducing multimedia packet overhead, comprising:

prior to commencement of transmission of the data packets from the source device to the display device over the main link line, receiving via the auxiliary channel multi-media data packet stream attributes from the multimedia source device, wherein the data packet stream attributes include information used by the display device to at least identify the data packets of a particular stream, to recover original data from the data packet stream and to format the data packet stream back to a data packet stream native data rate;

replacing the data packet header with a corresponding reduced size data packet header for each of the multimedia data packets at the source device commensurate with the data packet stream attributes already communicated via the auxiliary channel line;

receiving a stream of multimedia data packets having a data packet header with a size that was reduced by the multimedia source device by replacing the data packet header with a corresponding reduced size data packet header for each of the multimedia data packets at the source device commensurate with the data packet stream attributes already communicated via the auxiliary channel line; and

receiving information associated with the streaming by way of the auxiliary channel line concurrent with the receiving of the stream of multimedia data packets, wherein there is no clock line.